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Metropolitan tramways. Statement of obstructions to business and accidents to vehicles, horses and persons, caused by existing tramways.



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METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS.

STATEMENT

OF

OBSTRUCTIONS TO BUSINESS

AND

ACCIDENTS TO VEHICLES, HORSES, AND
PERSONS,

CAUSED BY EXISTING TRAMWAYS.

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METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

The expediency of constructing Tramways in the Metropolis is again before Parliament.

The inhabitants of the Tottenham Court Road have presented a Petition to Parliament, deprecating the construction of Tramways along that road.

They alleged in their Petition that the construction of such Tramways would interfere with their trade, and affect their interests, and that owing to the fear of accidents, and inconvenience occasioned thereby, their customers would be deterred from continuing to visit their shops.

They believed that those views would be justified by the experience of shopkeepers, residents, and others in roads in which Tramways had been already laid. The Committee of Householders and others which had been appointed for the purpose of opposing the construction of the Tramways instituted a series of investigations with the view of ascertaining how far their

opinions as to the effect of Tramways could be substantiated by evidence.

They made inquiries amongst persons who had had the fullest opportunity of observing their effect, and collected from them a very large number of individual cases, in which injury, hardship, or inconvenience had been inflicted. A note of such cases is printed in the following pages.

The Committee are prepared to point to a witness of respectability and integrity, who will corroborate each of such cases, which are the result of personal observation or experience.

Injury to Business.

A tradesman in Church Street, Camberwell, complains that he has experienced much annoyance from the running of Tram-cars in the street, that while loading or unloading his cart the man in charge is often obliged to remove from opposite his door to allow the Tram-car to pass, thereby losing valuable time, which is of the greatest importance to him. Many of his neighbours make the same complaint of obstruction in their business.

A tradesman at Camberwell complains that since the laying down of Tramways his business has fallen off at the rate of 150% a year. Many customers who used to come in their carriages do not come at all.

A baker at Camberwell states that his men were a few days since ordered to remove his cart from his door while being laden with bread for his customers to allow the Tram-car to pass: he has on many occasions been interrupted in his business; he also states that his business has fallen off since the laying down of Tramways in his neighbourhood.

A tradesman at Camberwell states that sufficient time is not allowed for him to load and unload at his door without being ordered to remove his vehicle to allow the Tram-car to pass, and that the Tramways are injurious to his business.

A watchmaker at Camberwell says that his business has been less since Tramways have been laid down.

A baker at Camberwell complains that his business has fallen off since the laying down of Tramways.

A butcher at Camberwell states his carts have to be frequently removed while being laden opposite his door, to allow the Tram-cars to pass.

A confectioner at Camberwell states that while loading a van with provisions for a large dinner party about nine months ago, the Tram-car took the wrong points, and came into collision with the van upsetting and strewing the contents over the road and pavement.

A milliner and dressmaker at Camberwell states that many customers complain of having to remove their carriages from the door in consequence of the Tram-cars running so close to the footpath.

A tradesman at Camberwell states the Tramways are a great obstruction to business generally in his neighbourhood.

A tradesman at Clapham states that his business is injuriously affected, several of his customers not coming to his shop in their carriages as before.

A tradesman at Clapham has seen many accidents to vehicles opposite his own door, and at the busy part of the day the confusion is so great that his customers cannot get near his door, and many complaints are made to him in consequence.

A tradesman at Clapham complains that the Tramways are a great obstruction to him in his business, as they prevent customers visiting his establishment in carriages as formerly.

A perfumer at Kennington complains of the continual noise, and also of injury to his business, as many customers in carriages who formerly called upon him, to the extent of five or six per day, now go another road to avoid the Tramway.

A wardrobe dealer states his takings are reduced from 9*l.* to 3*l.* per week owing to the cars getting off the Tram and running on the pavement opposite his shop.

A fishmonger states that he cannot load or unload his cart opposite his door, but has to carry his goods seven yards, causing great delay and injury to his trade.

A greengrocer and coal dealer states she has been in

business fourteen years and has been ruined by the Tramways, she cannot get supplied with coals, as the carmen refuse to carry them from opposite the landing; the van or cart cannot stop at her door.

A firewood dealer at Kentish Town states he cannot load or unload a van or cart before his door, the Tramway occupying nearly the whole of the road, thereby causing him extra expense and delay in his business.

An oil and colourman states that vans, when delivering goods at his shop, have to move three or four times to make room for the Tram-cars.

A fly proprietor at Whitechapel estimates that the damage done to his stock annually by the Tramways amounts to nearly 100*l*.

A tailor at Whitechapel complains of the obstruction to his business caused by the Tramway being under repair, and the huge stones piled up opposite his door. One Saturday two or three persons fell in the road over the stones.

Obstructions generally.

In October, 1871, a car left the rails at Newington Butts and came into contact with a public lamp-post which prevented injury to the shop of a tradesman.

On 16th November, 1871, ten cars were standing in the Westminster Bridge Road at one time, causing great obstruction.

On 25th November, 1871, six cars were standing at one time in Westminster Bridge Road.

On 1st December, 1871, five cars were standing at one time in the Westminster Bridge Road.

A car left the rails at Camberwell, and ran on the footpath, doing considerable damage to a sunblind.

On 5th April instant a Tramway-car left the rails and

mounted the footpath in Church Street, Camberwell, to the danger of the foot passengers.

On 9th April, 1873, the rails of the Tramways at the starting point, Finsbury Place, were three inches above the stonework for a distance of two yards.

Accidents to Vehicles.

In March, 1871, near the Bricklayers' Arms, the wheels of a trap became fixed in the Tramway, and the splinter-bar and springs were broken.

On returning from Chislehurst a short time since a wheel of the carriage of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales caught in the Tramway and sprang the tyre.

In March, 1871, the wheels of a phaeton became fixed in the Tramway in the Brixton Road, when the hind wheel and axletree were broken.

In March, 1871, the wheels of a pony trap were pulled off through becoming fixed in the Tramway.

On April 2nd, 1871, the wheels of a hansom cab passing Kennington Church became fixed in the Tramway, which was out of repair, and both panels and axletree of the cab were broken.

On 5th April, 1871, the wheels of a butcher's van laden with meat passing Kennington Church became fixed in the Tramway—it being out of repair, and the axletree was twisted.

In June, 1871, the wheels of a van passing the railway bridge, New Kent Road, became fixed in the Tramway, and one of the cars ran into the van and broke one of its wheels and back panel.

In June 1871, the axletree of a four-wheeled trap was broken, a wheel having become fixed in the rails in New Cross Road.

In June, 1871, a similar accident occurred in New Cross Road, when the axletree and springs were broken.

In June, 1871, the axletree of a light cart belonging to a china and glass dealer was broken in consequence of one of the wheels becoming fixed in the rails in the New Cross Road.

In August, 1871, the axletree and side of a van were broken, also about three dozen of ginger beer and soda water bottles, the wheels having become fixed in the Tramway near Bow Railway station.

On the 10th Sept. 1871, a Tram-car ran into and damaged an omnibus, for which the proprietor recovered compensation in the County Court.

On the 14th September, 1871, the wheels of a gentleman's trap passing down Kennington Road became fixed in the Tramway, and the wheels and axletree were broken.

In September, 1871, the axletree of a light cart belonging to a cheesemonger at Kentish Town was broken, the wheels having become fixed in the rails opposite St. James's Church, Hampstead Road.

In September, 1871, the whole of the spokes of a hind wheel of an omnibus were broken, having become fixed in the rails opposite Jubilee Street, Mile End Road.

In September, 1871, whilst passing Bow Bridge, the wheels of a trap became fixed in the Tramway, when the shafts were broken and the horses' knees cut.

In September, 1871, two axletrees of a wagonette were bent, one of the wheels having become fixed in the rails at Clapham Rise.

In October, 1871, a private cab was run into by a Tram-car in High Street, Whitechapel, and the back panel broken—the horse of the cab having fallen on the rails.

In October, 1871, the wheels of a wagonette crossing the Tramway opposite Cobden's Statue, Hampstead Road, became fixed, and the axletree was broken.

In October, 1871, the axletree of a cart was broken

and several lamps in the cart injured, while passing over the rails opposite Henry Street, Hampstead Road.

In October, 1871, the driver of a van endeavouring to get out of the way of a cart containing gravel, the wheels became fixed in the rails, turning over the van and throwing out five persons, none of whom were, however, injured.

In October, 1871, a wheel of a four-wheeled trap became fixed in the rails, near the "Elephant and Castle," and the hind part of the trap, the axletree, and the lamp were broken. The coachman was thrown out.

In November, 1871, the axletree and side of a van belonging to a sack and rope maker were broken, the wheels having become fixed in the rails in Westminster Bridge Road.

In November, 1871, a collision occurred between a car and a van in the Greenwich Road.

In November, 1871, the stock and spokes of the near hind wheel of an omnibus were broken opposite Union Street, Whitechapel.

In November, 1872, the spokes and stock of a four-wheel trap were broken, and the springs much injured. A gentleman in the trap was thrown out, but not injured.

In December, 1871, in the New Kent Road, the wheels of a trap became fixed in the Tramway, and the hind carriage was torn away, causing an outlay of 5*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* for repairs.

A gentleman states that on several occasions whilst passing from his house at Highbury to his office, the wheels of his trap and the axletree have been injured.

In January, 1872, the wheels of a van passing through St. Pancras Road became fixed in the Tramway, and were broken, the rails being two inches above the road.

In January, 1872, the wheels of a mourning coach passing Holloway Road, opposite the Nag's Head, having become fixed in the Tramway, the axletree was broken.

In April, 1872, whilst passing Camberwell Gate, the

wheels of a pony trap became fixed in the Tramway, and the axletree was broken.

In April, 1872, the wheels of a cart whilst passing the Tramway in the Old Kent Road became fixed, and the axletree was broken.

In April, 1872, a van was turned over whilst crossing the Tramway in the City Road, and both shafts were broken.

In May, 1872, the wheels of a carriage passing along the City Road became fixed in the Tramway, and the wheels were broken.

On the 25th May, 1872, whilst passing through the Whitechapel Road the wheels of a trap became fixed in the Tramway; the horse was thrown down and broke his knees, and the shafts of the trap were broken.

On 27th May, 1872, in passing through Stratford near the bridge the wheels of a trap caught in the Tramway, and the axletree was broken.

In June, 1872, the wheels of the van of a rag merchant passing through Hampstead Road became fixed in the Tramway, and the axletree was broken.

In June, 1872, the wheels of a brougham passing the Tramway opposite the Half-Way House, Old Kent Road, became fixed, and the axletree was twisted.

In June, 1872, a similar accident occurred in the City Road, when the axletree was broken.

On the 27th June, 1872, whilst passing through Stratford, near the bridge, the wheels of a break became fixed in the Tramway and were broken.

In the months of June, July, and August, 1872, the wheels of four vans laden with ginger beer, &c. became fixed in the Tramways near the Railway Bridge, New Kent Road and the London Road, and the axletrees were broken in each instance.

In July, 1872, whilst passing through Great College Street, Camden Town, the wheels of a pony trap became fixed in the Tramway, and were broken.

In July, 1872, whilst passing the Red Cap, Camberwell Green, the wheels of a van laden with corn became fixed in the Tramway, and the hind wheels were broken.

In July, 1872, whilst passing through Walworth Road the wheels of a van laden with fruit became fixed in the Tramways, and the wheels were broken.

In August, 1872, the wheels of a cab passing along the New Kent Road became fixed in the Tramway, and the axletree was broken.

In September, 1872, the wheels of a cab passing through Old Saint Pancras Road became fixed in the Tramway, and the axletree and panels were broken.

In September, 1872, whilst passing through the City Road, the wheels of a phaeton became fixed in the Tramway, and the wheels and axletree were broken.

In September, 1872, the wheels of a brougham, whilst passing the Elephant and Castle, became fixed in the Tramway, and two wheels were pulled off and the axletree twisted.

In October, 1872, the wheels of a pair-horse phaeton became fixed in the Tramway near the Elephant and Castle, and the hind carriage was torn away.

In November, 1872, the wheels of a van crossing Old Saint Pancras Road and College Street became fixed in the Tramway, the rail being then two inches above the road, and one of the wheels was broken.

In December, 1872, the wheel of a brougham passing along the Old Kent Road became fixed in the Tramway and was broken.

On 27th December, 1872, whilst passing through Hampstead Road the wheels of a cab became fixed in the Tramway, and the fore-carriage was broken.

In November, 1872, the wheels of a brougham passing along the New Kent Road became fixed in the Tramway and the axletree was broken.

In December, 1872, a Tram-car drove into a four-wheeled chaise, causing damage to the vehicle and slight injury to the driver.

On 2nd January, 1873, whilst passing through Great College Street, Camden Town, opposite Pratt Street, the wheels of a van became fixed in the Tramway and a wheel was broken.

In January last, whilst passing through the White-chapel Road, the hind-wheels of a trap became fixed in the Tramway and were broken.

On the 10th January, 1873, whilst passing through the Old Kent Road, the wheels of a butcher's cart became fixed in the Tramway and the axletree was broken.

On the 11th January, 1873, whilst passing through Blackfriars Road, the wheel of a butcher's cart became fixed in the Tramway, and was broken, and the load of meat upset in the road. A cart was hired to take the load home, and on reaching the London Road a wheel of that cart also became fixed in the Tramway and broke down.

On the 18th January, whilst passing through London Road, the wheels of a butcher's cart became fixed in the Tramway and were broken.

In January last the wheels of a cart became fixed in the Tramway in the Hampstead Road and were broken.

In January, 1873, a wheel of an omnibus became fixed in the Tramway in the Old Kent Road, near the Bricklayers' Arms, and a panel and window were broken, the road at the time being out of repair.

On the 22nd January, 1873, the wheels of an undertaker's carriage, in crossing the City Road to Bath Street, became fixed in the Tramway, and the fore-carriage and bed were broken.

On 25th January last, whilst passing through Walworth Road, the wheels of a cart became fixed in the Tramway, and a wheel and the axletree were broken.

In January last, whilst passing through Blackfriars Road, opposite the church, the wheels of a cart laden

with meat became fixed in the Tramway, it being out of repair, and both wheels were broken.

In March, 1873, the wheels of a trap passing through the Mile End Road became fixed in the Tramway and both were broken.

On the 8th March, whilst passing through the Kentish Town Road, the wheels of a van became fixed in the Tramway, and were broken.

And on the 14th March, in the Holloway Road, the wheels of a cart became fixed in the Tramway, and were broken.

On the 15th March, whilst passing through Old St. Pancras Road, a horse slipped on the Tramway, threw out the driver, and broke the shafts of the cart.

On the 22nd March, 1873, a Tram-car ran into a cab in the Westminster Bridge Road, doing considerable damage to the vehicle.

On the 24th March, 1873, the wheels of a cab passing along the Walworth Road became fixed in the Tramway and the axletree was bent.

On the 25th March, 1873, a car took the wrong points, and broke a baker's barrow.

On 26th March, 1873, the wheels of a baker's van, passing down the Camberwell Road, became fixed in the Tramway, and the back-plate of the axletree was broken in consequence.

On the 27th March, in the Kennington Road, a Tramway-car ran into a greengrocer's cart and broke it.

On 29th March, 1873, the hind wheel of a fire-engine passing Camberwell Green became fixed in the points of the Tramway, and was broken.

In March last, whilst crossing Walworth Road, a Tramway-car ran into a carrier's van, threw out the driver, and broke the van.

On 5th April, 1873, a horse in a hansom cab fell down on the rails in the Hampstead Road, and a shaft of the cab was broken.

In April, 1873, at Islington, the wheels of a van became fixed in the Tramway, and a wheel was broken.

The hind wheel of a doctor's carriage passing through Church Street, Camberwell, became fixed in the Tramway and pulled the hind carriage away.

The axletree of a light cart belonging to a butcher was bent through one of the wheels becoming fixed in the rail opposite Stamford Street, Blackfriars.

The wheels of a chaise got on the outside iron of the Tramway, and the axle was broken.

A poulterer at Whitechapel Road broke the axle of his cart while crossing the rails of the Tramway.

A fly proprietor at Whitechapel, about ten months since, had one of his vehicles, in passing over the Tramway in the Whitechapel Road, turned over and damaged.

The axletree of a brougham was broken in the Brixton Road, in consequence of the defective state of the road occupied by the Tramway Company.

A butcher at Camberwell states he has seen many casualties occasioned by the Tramways.

A tradesman at Clapham states that accidents opposite his house are of frequent occurrence.

A tradesman at Clapham has had many springs and axles of his carts broken in going over the rails of the different Tramways.

A tradesman at Clapham states that numerous accidents have occurred opposite his house, occasioned by the Tramways.

One wheel of a four-wheeled trap going down New Kent Road got in the groove of the Tramway, and the whole of the spokes were broken from the box.

A watchmaker of Camberwell states that the tyres and springs of his chaise have suffered in passing over the rails.

An undertaker states he has had five or six accidents to his carriages in consequence of the Tramways.

A traveller's trap was thrown over and the trap broken

opposite Henry Street, Hampstead Road. The occupants were thrown off, but not injured.

A Tramway-car left the rails and ran into a brougham, smashing the door.

In April last, whilst passing through Kentish Town Road, the wheels of a four-wheeled chaise became fixed in the Tramway, it being out of repair, and the chaise was broken.

In the Wandsworth Road a Tramway-car came into collision with a cab and broke the front pillars and panel.

The wheels of a trap, whilst passing the Elephant and Castle, became fixed in the Tramway, and the axletree was broken.

Accidents to Horses.

A veterinary surgeon at Hackney considers the rails of the Tramways are very dangerous to persons driving; it has come to his personal knowledge that valuable horses are injured daily in consequence of having to cross the rails at different parts of London; in his vicinity several casualties have occurred.

In January, 1871, the horse of a veterinary surgeon who was driving through Greenwich was thrown down and killed opposite the Tramway-yard.

In March, 1871, a horse in a mourning coach slipped on the Tramway at Kennington church and broke both knees.

A horse belonging to a firm of cheesemongers, while drawing a load, got one of his hind-heels in the groove of the rails of the Tramway and was so badly injured that it had ultimately to be destroyed. The horse was valued at sixty guineas.

On the 13th January, 1872, a shoe of one of the horses in a mourning coach passing Junction Road, Highgate, caught in the Tramway and the animal's leg was broken.

In June, 1872, a horse drawing a cart in the Hampstead Road caught the corking of his shoe in the Tramway, was thrown down, and cut one of his shoulders. Cost 25*l.* sold for 10*l.*

In July, 1872, a cab-horse passing the railway bridge, New Kent Road, caught the corking of the off-side shoe in the Tramway, and was lamed.

In July, 1872, in passing through Deptford, the corking of a shoe of a horse got fixed in the Tramway; the horse was thrown down and broke both knees.

On the 3rd April last one of the horses in an omnibus, crossing the Tramway in the Old Saint Pancras Road, slipped on the rails and cut both knees.

On the 4th April, 1873, the wheels of a gig became fixed in the Tramway in the Hackney Road; the horse was thrown down and broke his knees.

Personal Injuries.

In January, 1871, a veterinary surgeon received injuries when driving through Greenwich, owing to the ground being sunk below the rails.

In July, 1871, A horse attached to a light cart belonging to a beer retailer was thrown down opposite Bow Church in consequence of a shoe having become fixed in the rails, and three persons were thrown out, one of whom, a little boy, was very much injured.

In July, 1871, the occupant of a light cart was thrown out and injured.

In August, 1871, a basket-maker, whilst passing the Bricklayers' Arms, Old Kent Road, in his trap, was thrown out and one of his thighs broken, owing to the wheels having become fixed in the Tramway.

In October, 1871, a lady caught her foot in the rails

opposite the Elephant and Castle, Walworth, was thrown down, and fractured her right thigh.

On October 6th a lady, crossing the Walworth Road, fell on the tram-rail and fractured one of her thighs.

An undertaker's coachman was thrown from his box seat near Clapham and was injured.

On 25th December, 1871, a woman was knocked down in Kentish Town and taken to the hospital, where her leg was amputated.

The driver of a hansom cab was thrown from his seat owing to the horse falling on the rail of the Tramway, and received injuries to his wrist.

The driver of a brougham received injuries to his legs whilst driving in the Brixton Road, in consequence of the Tramway being out of repair.

In April, 1872, the four occupants of a four-wheeled chaise were thrown out in the Kentish Town Road, and the wife of a publican injured and rendered incapable of attending to business for four months.

On 25th May, 1872, a lady was injured through being thrown from a trap, the wheels of which became fixed in the Tramway at Whitechapel Road.

In August, 1872, the wheels of a small two-wheeled chaise, containing a fruiterer and his wife, got in the groove of the Tram, and the wife was thrown out and much shaken.

In September, 1872, an old woman was knocked down in the Kennington Road by a Tramway-car, and taken to St. Thomas's Hospital.

On 8th September, 1872, the wheels of a cart passing the Tramway near Kennington Church became fixed. The driver was thrown out and one of his legs smashed.

On the 7th November, 1872, in the road opposite Kennington Church, a Tramway-car on the wrong line of rails ran against a chaise and broke the harness of the horses.

In December, 1872, a man was knocked down by a

Tramway-car, opposite St. Peter's Road, and taken to the German Hospital; his right arm was amputated, and he was discharged from the hospital on the 20th March.

On 27th December, 1872, a cab proprietor received injury to his legs in consequence of the fore-carriage of his cab being broken in crossing the Tramway.

In January, 1873, a man was knocked down by a Tramway-car in Balls Pond Road, and taken to the German Hospital; left leg amputated below the knee; still in the Hospital; has a wife and seven children.

In February last a gentleman was thrown out of his carriage in the Westminster Bridge Road—he fractured his ribs—the tram-rail was then $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch above the stonework of the road; the carriage was injured.

On 2nd March last, whilst passing Finsbury Square, the wheels of a carriage caught the Tramway and threw the driver, who received injuries to his side.

On the 8th March last, near the Swan, Kingsland Road, the wheels of an omnibus coming in contact with the Tramway, threw the conductor off the step, he was taken to the German Hospital with a broken kneecap.

A publican's gig was turned over by a Tramway-car opposite Astley's theatre and broken—himself thrown out.

A man with a barrow laden with chairs was knocked down and the barrow turned over by a Tramway-car whilst he was crossing St. George's Road and Westminster Bridge Road.

A gentleman, whilst driving in a gig along the Tramway in the Clapham Road was thrown out and received frightful injuries to his face, causing permanent disfigurement; a friend accompanying him was also injured.

On the 25th March last, whilst crossing the Tramway in Bow Road, a horse slipped and threw the driver, who was seriously injured.

The driver of a fire-engine passing over the Tramway at Camberwell Green was thrown off, his wrist fractured, and his head and one knee cut.

Fatal Accidents.

In October, 1871, a man was knocked down in the Mile End Road by a Tramway-car whilst wheeling a truck, and was trodden upon by the horses; he was taken to the London Hospital, where he died. The driver of the car was committed for trial for manslaughter.

On 19th June, 1872, a man was thrown out of his cart on Deptford Bridge when crossing the Tramway, and died on 23rd of October.

On 25th July, 1872, a man was knocked down by a Tramway-car opposite the Earl Grey, Mile End Road, and was taken to the London Hospital, where he died on 27th July.

On 21st November, 1872, a florist at Clapham was thrown out of his cart by reason of the horse tripping on the Tramway, and was killed.

On 1st January, 1873, a man was knocked down by a Tramway-car in the Westminster Bridge Road and his leg broken; he was taken to St. Thomas' Hospital and died on the 6th January.

In January, 1873, a man was knocked down opposite the "Weavers' Arms" by a Stoke Newington Tramway-car and killed.

In February, 1873, a horse drawing a cart stumbled opposite Nelson Terrace and fell on the Tramway; the driver was thrown out, when a Tram-car passed over him, and killed him on the spot.

In February, 1873, a man was knocked down by a Tramway-car under the railway bridge, Blackfriars Road; he was taken to Guy's Hospital and died on the 10th March.

In February, 1873, a man was knocked down by a Tramway-car opposite his house. He was taken to the Royal Free Hospital. Both legs were broken. He died on the 13th of March.

In March, 1873, a man was knocked down by a Tramway-car opposite the starting point, Finsbury Park; he was taken to the Great Northern Hospital, and died next day.

On the 25th March, 1873, the driver of a carriage, whilst passing over the Tramway in Addington Road, Bow Road, was thrown out and taken to the London Hospital, where he died on the 27th.

A female was run over by a Tramway-car in the Essex Road, Islington, and was killed.



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